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BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Colorado College Studies. Vol. VII. Papers read before the Colorado College Scientific Society. Pamphlet, 48 pages.

The contents of this volume are, "Literature for Children," by Prof. E. S. Parsons; "Warming Up," by Dr. E. G. Lancaster; and "Equations of Motion of a Viscous Liquid," by Mr. P. E. Doudna. The last paper has an historical introduction of much value, beginning with the time of Archimedes and coming down to the time of Stokes and Basset. Section I of the paper treats of the Equations of Motion of a Perfect Fluid, and Section II of the Equations of Motion of a Viscous Fluid. The paper is to be continued in Vol. VIII. B. F. F.

Plane and Solid Geometry. By William J. Milne, Ph. D., LL. D., President of New York State Normal College, Albany, New York. 12mo. Half Leather, 384 pages. Price, $1.25. Chicago: American Book Co.

A very commendable feature of this new book is the introduction of each theorem by questions so designed as to lead the student to obtain clearly and fully the geometrical concepts of theorems before attempting a demonstration. The book contains 1187 original exercises, giving the teacher a larger number than usual from which to select for class use. The work is one we have no hesitancy in recommending. B. F. F.

Discourse on the Method of Rightly Conducting the Reason and Seeking the Truth in Science. By René Descartes. Translated from the French and Collated with the Latin by John Veitch, LL. D., Late Professor of Logic and Rhetoric in the University of Glasgow. 8vo. Paper Back, 88 pages. Price, 50 cents. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co.

While much of the philosophy of the seventeenth century has been destroyed by the relentless investigating powers of the nineteenth century, yet much of what Descartes says in his *Discourse on Method* is as true to-day as when it was written. B. F. F.

The Teaching of Mathematics in High Schools. By E. S. Loomis, Ph. D., Teacher of Mathematics, West High School, Cleveland, Ohio. Pamphlet, 12 pages.

In this paper, which was read before the Ohio State Teachers' Association, at Put-in-Bay, and published in *Education*, Boston, Dr. Loomis has handled his subject admirably. This scholarly address is worthy of a careful study, and the general reading of it will have a very helpful effect on the teaching of mathematics in our secondary schools. Dr. Loomis's long experience as a teacher of mathematics in public schools and colleges enables him to speak authoritatively on the subject. B. F. F.

New Plane and Solid Geometry. A text-book for High Schools, Academies, Normal Schools, and Colleges. By Wooster Woodruff Beman, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Michigan, and David Eugene Smith, Principal of the State Normal School at Brockport, New York. 8vo. Half Leather, 382 pages. Price, $1.25. Boston: Ginn & Co.

In this new edition the authors have improved very largely on what, to my mind, is the best geometry for the use of schools and colleges that has yet appeared. The style of type has been changed and the whole appearance of the book greatly improved. Many valuable additions in the way of exercises and more complete explanations have been made. The work combines modern scholarship with the rigorous logic of the Euclidean system, thus happily combining vitality and strength in a way to make Geometry the most attractive of the elementary branches of knowledge. B. F. F.

Elementarg Illustrations of the Differential and Integral Calculus. By Augustus De Morgan. New Edition. 8vo. Red Cloth, 144 pages. Price, $1.00 net. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co.

In bringing out these reprints, The Open Court Publishing Company is disseminating among the public at large sound views of science and of an adequate and a correct appreciation of the methods by which truth generally is reached. The editor, in the editor's preface of this book, says, "Of these methods, mathematics, by its simplicity, has always formed the type and ideal, and it is nothing less than imperative that its ways of procedure, both in the discovery of new truth and in the demonstration of the necessity and universality of old truth, should be laid at the foundation of every philosophical education. The greatest achievements in the history of thought—Plato, Descartes, Kant—are associated with the recognition of this principle. But it is precisely mathematics, and the pure sciences generally, from which the general educated public and independent students have been debarred, and into which they only rarely attained more than a very meagre insight. The reason of this is twofold. In the first place, the ascendent and consecutive character of mathematical knowledge renders its results absolutely unsusceptible of presentation to persons who are unacquainted with what has gone on before, and so necessitates on the part of its development a thorough and patient exploration of the field from the very beginning, as distinguished from those sciences which may, so to speak, be begun at the end, and which are consequently cultivated with greatest zeal. The second reason is that, partly through the exigencies of academic instruction, but mainly through the martinet traditions of antiquity and the influence of mediaeval logic-mongers, the great bulk of the elementary text-books of mathematics have unconsciously assumed a very repellant form—something similar to what is termed in the theory of protective mimicry in biology the terrifying form. And it is mainly to this formidableness and touch-me-not character of exterior, concealing with harmless body, that the undue neglect of typical mathematical studies are to be attributed." It is gratifying to note that in this country, more attention is given to the study of mathematics. Empty verbosity is giving place to careful and accurate thought and expressions, and true students are finding that the subject most helpful in cultivating correct habits of thought is mathematics. Mathematics because of its varied application, in all departments of art and science, has long been recognized as absolutely essential to the prosecution of a thorough scientific course. But because of the great disciplinary value derived from the study of mathematics, the true classical student is more than ever before availing himself of the benefits to be derived from mathematics by electing it at least through the calculus. B. F. F.

The Mathematical Gazette is issued in February, June, and October, and is edited by W. A. Greenstreet, M. A., of London.

The number for June, in addition to the large number of problems and solutions, contains a "Note on the Sphero-Conic," by Frank Morley; "On the Expression Motion at an Instant," by S. A. Saunder; and "Prismatic Equations," by R. F. Davis. B. F. F.

Annals of Mathematics. A Bi-Monthly Magazine published under the Auspices of the University of Virginia. Edited by William H. Echols. Price, $2.00 per year, in advance.

The June (1899) number, which completes the twelfth volume of this journal, and which is the last to be published at the University of Virginia, contains the following articles: "A Theorem in Determinants," by Dr. E. O. Lovett; "On the Expansion of an Arbitrary Function in Terms of Laplace's Functions," by Prof. W. H. Echols; "On the Relations between Cauchy's Numbers and Bessel's Functions, by Dr. A. Chessin; "On Circuit Integration Over a Straight Line," by Prof. W. H. Echols; "Note on the Invariant Differential Equation," by Prof. J. M. Page. The publication of the *Annals of Mathematics*, so ably conducted at the University of Virginia, will be continued from Harvard University. The first number under the new management appears in October. B. F. F.